**What is the REP?**

The South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (REP) brings together a wide range of expertise from the public, private, education and third sector to set the direction of our regional economy.

It held its first meeting on 18 September 2020.

The REP has a collective ambition to deliver a clear and compelling vision for the economic success of the South of Scotland - one which will harness the efforts of all partners. Partners of the REP are taking forward work to develop the RES.

The partnership forms part of a new regional structure in the South of Scotland to help drive economic success. This includes supporting the new South of Scotland Enterprise agency (SOSE), which went live on 1 April 2020, which will operate alongside existing public agencies and Dumfries and Galloway (D&GC) and Scottish Borders Councils (SBC).

The REP also links into the Convention of South of Scotland (COSS) which is chaired by the Deputy First Minister and brings together local agencies and organisations with Scottish Government.

Members of the REP were appointed through a recruitment process to join Elected Members from both Councils (D&GC and SBC) and South of Scotland Enterprise Board members.

**Who is all involved in the REP?**

The REP is made up of representative from a wide range of organisations, sectors and groups who are based in, or work across the South of Scotland.

They bring together a diverse range of interests, knowledge, experience and resources - all valuable to the development of the Regional Economic Strategy for the South of Scotland.

There are currently 32 members of the REP from:

* Elected Members from Dumfries & Galloway Council
* Elected Members from Scottish Borders Council
* Board Members from the South of Scotland Enterprise
* Representation from Skills Development Scotland
* Representation from Scottish Enterprise
* Representation from VisitScotland
* Representation from Scottish Funding Council
* Representation from Borders College
* Representation from Dumfries & Galloway College
* Representation from SRUC
* Representation from Higher Education
* Representatives of the Private Sector within the region
* Representatives of Social Enterprises within the region
* Representatives of the Third Sector within the region
* Representatives from Registered Housing Providers
* Community representatives from within the region.

You can view the members at https://sosrep.dumgal.gov.uk

**What is the RES?**

The Regional Economic Strategy (RES) is the economic plan for the South of Scotland being progressed by the REP. It is a vital strategy at a crucial time for our region because it will set out a clear vision for how we want the region’s economy to look and work in the future.

An Action Plan will be progressed alongside the strategy, helping to translate partner commitments into firm priorities. It will co-ordinate activities to help us to achieve more through working together.

It will also clearly set out the support required from national agencies to ensure it meets the needs of our area.

This will be the South of Scotland’s first ever economic strategy covering the whole of the South of Scotland (Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders).

It is a real opportunity to drive the transformational change that many living and based in our region want to see.

It will also:

* Help us collectively establish the South of Scotland as a great place to live, work, visit, invest in and learn.
* Play a key role in making sure the region is not left behind.
* Seek to address the disadvantages and inequalities facing and within the South of Scotland.

**Why now?**

Many of the challenges facing the region are long-standing and need long-term, sustained action to address them.

As the region looks to recover from the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic; adjust to the UK’s exit from the EU; and capitalise on new opportunities - the need for a long term vision to guide and coordinate efforts is more important than ever.

**Why do we want to hear from you?**

To make the desired difference, the RES needs to be developed in the South, by the South and for the South.

The time is NOW for the South of Scotland, and there has never been a more important time for the future of our region so tell us your views on the future you want for our region.

Your opinion really does matter so get involved by visiting sosrep.dumgal.gov.uk